Noah’s First Priority

Lesson for Sunday, September 11, 2022

Introduction:

* One of the greatest punishments for a child is to be sent to their room. Did that ever happen to you? What makes that so frustrating for a child?
  + It’s hard to be in one space for an extended amount of time!
  + How often do you have to get up and walk around during the day to “get out of the office?”
* When we come to Genesis 8:13-14, Noah and his family had been on the Ark for 367 days! Can you imagine?!?!
* What’s even more difficult to imagine is what the earth was like when they were finally able to walk off the ark. Psalm 46:8 gives a description.
  + The earth was a barren, mud plain.
  + There was not a single living creature other than those on the ark.
  + There was not a single tree, plant or blade of grass. Probably a lot of mounds of dirt, rock and debris that had been scattered by the waters.
  + No doubt there were rotting the corpses of animals and people that remained.
* Noah was seeing the aftermath of the Judgment of God upon the earth.
* If you were Noah in that moment, what would your first impulse be? What would be the first thing you set out to do when finally getting off the ark after a year?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. NOAH’S PRIORITY: THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP (Genesis 8:20-21)
   1. In verse 20, we see Noah’s first act after the flood was to build an altar and worship God.
   2. Think about that: Noah’s priority was to the worship of Almighty God.
   3. What is worship? *Have a brief discussion…*
   4. “Worship” defined:
      1. Worship is honor and adoration directed to God.
      2. The Hebrew word is “sha-kah.” It literally means to kiss the hand. It is the idea of prostrating oneself in submission to another.
      3. We derive our English word from the Anglo-Saxon. It looks a lot like “worth-ship” and has the idea of ascribing worth or value to God.
   5. POINT: We all worship something. There are basically three options of who we will worship: God, Satan or Self.
   6. GK Chesterton wrote, “When we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything.” We all worship something.
2. THE BENEFITS OF WORSHIP
   1. Worship has many benefits. What do you think they might be?
   2. Worship transforms (Romans 12:1,2)
      1. We are changed when we present our bodies a ‘living sacrifice.’
      2. Vs. 2: Worship prevents being conformed to the world (mold).
      3. Vs. 2: Worship transforms by renewing the mind.
      4. Vs. 2: In worship, God reveals His will.
   3. Worship allows us to get our focus off of self and on the Lord (Isaiah 6:1).
      1. Vs. 5: In worship, sin is revealed of which we were not conscious.
      2. Vs. 5: In worship, we are led to confession of sin.
      3. Vs. 6, 7: In worship, we can be touched by God
      4. Vs. 8: In worship, we hear the call to service.
   4. Worship is the best preparation for the responsibilities & duties of life.
      1. This of Noah: He had a house to build, crops to plant and animals to care for – yet he first made time to worship.
      2. He understood that he wasn’t ready to work until after he had worshipped.
   5. Worship brings peace of mind (Luke 10:38-42).
      1. Remember Martha? She was stressed out serving the guests in the house and frustrated with the lack of help from her sister, Mary.
      2. Where was Mary? Verse 39 says she was sitting at the feet of Jesus – a beautiful picture of worship.
      3. When Martha complained, how did Jesus respond?
         1. Vs. 41: “Martha, you are full of care and troubled...”
         2. Vs. 42: “There’s one thing you need to do – follow Mary’s example.
   6. There are many other benefits of worship, but these are a good start!
3. THE IMPORTANCE OF CORPORATE WORSHIP (APPLICATION)
   1. In our efforts to worship biblically, we cannot ignore the command to worship with other believers, specifically within our local church.
   2. Corporate worship is one of the primary identifying marks of a genuine Christian. It is a command we are to obey (Hebrews 10:25).
   3. Corporate worship carries the promise of God’s presence (Matthew 18:20).
   4. In Acts, the Holy Spirit works in corporate worship (Acts 2, 4, 5, 12, 13).
   5. We should worship corporately as we follow the example of Jesus Luke 4:16).
   6. Another example to follow is that of the early church (Acts 5:42).
   7. Discuss: What are things that have occurred in society that discourage corporate worship? How do we overcome these?

Conclusion:

* Back to Genesis 8:22. How did God respond to Noah’s worship? He was pleased.
* This is echoed in Romans 12:1-2 – it is “acceptable to God.”
* Don’t let worship become discretionary rather than the Godly habit God intended.